

CONNECTING TO YOUR FUTURE

This newsletter, by the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc., was created to provide career and labor market information to educators and students.

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Construction



Houses, apartments, factories, offices, schools, roads, and bridges are only some of the products of the construction industry. This industry's activities include the building of new structures as well as additions and modifications to existing ones. The industry also includes maintenance, repair, and improvements.

Just imagine: You're working on an exciting construction project. How impressive will it sound when you can point out to your friends one day:

"Yep, I built that."

It could be a house, a golf course, a subway, flooring, plumbing system, or a road. The construction industry is comprised of businesses that construct buildings or engineer projects, whatever your interest, there is a job for you.

Website Highlight constructmyfuture.com

Provides:

- A database of over 1,600 post secondary programs.
- A database of companies willing to provide field trips and student internships.
- An overview of construction terms and career descriptions.

Bet You Didn't Know

- The construction industry is predicted to add approximately one million new jobs between 2001 and 2012, an increase of 15%.
- With total employment expected to reach 7.8 million by 2012, the construction industry is predicted to be among the economy's top 10 largest sources of job growth.

Steps to a Career in Construction

Step 1: Work for a contractor during the summer months. You'll be doing general labor. Due to OSHA requirements, you may not be operating a power tool, but you'll understand how a jobsite works, make great connections and gain valuable experience.

Step 2: Get a high school diploma. You'll need it to be employable in any industry. It shows your dedication to learn. You'll also need math, science, and language arts/communication skills. Earn while you learn by taking advantage of high school school-to-career programs.

Step 3: If you decide to go on for schooling, there are many secondary schools with building related classes that can teach you to be a carpenter, electrician, plumber, and much more. You will need to consider a four-year college for careers as architects, construction law, planning engineering, or construction management. The more training you get, the more marketable you will be.

(Source: The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), on the Internet at <http://www.nccer.org>)

Apprenticeships

Many people enter the construction trades through apprenticeship programs. These programs offer both on-the-job training under the close supervision of an experienced craft worker and formal classroom instruction. Apprenticeships are administered by local employers, trade associations, and trade unions. Wisconsin is unique in requiring that employers pay apprentices for both time worked and time spent in the classroom. Read more on apprenticeships in Wisconsin: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/publications/dws/apprenticeship/apprenticebooklet.pdf>

The Youth Council, acting under the direction of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. (WDB), is working to establish a comprehensive youth development system that provides effective learning environments linking education, employment, leadership development, mentoring, and sustained support for youth to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The WDB is a business-led Board that formulates strategies to address workforce development issues in western Wisconsin. For more information contact Ann Wales, WDB Administrative Coordinator, at (608) 789-5600, Walesa@wwtc.edu, or visit our website at www.wwjobcenter.org.





Transportation

Air, rail, road, and water transportation move the American people, their business goods and their personal items - every day of the year - 24/7. All require drivers and operators, dispatchers and attendants, mechanics and engineers to keep them moving safely from one destination to the next. Loading and unloading, warehouse and dock crews also keep things moving 24/7. Just imagine: behind the wheel or at the throttle, on the docks or in the warehouse:

"You keep America on the move!"

Hundreds of trucks - large, medium and small - are on the move every day of the year.

What might it take for you to become a working member of this industry? Truck transportation employers often require that driver applicants be at least 18-years of age, have a good driving record, and have the ability to pass a written examination. Federal and state regulations may require most drivers of large trucks to hold a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) from their state of residence. Employers often also prefer candidates who have graduated from high school.

Between now and 2014, opportunities in transportation should only get better, with hundreds of thousands of new workers needed, including:

- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers - over 500,000 jobs;
- Light and delivery truck drivers - more than 250,000 jobs;
- Laborers and hand freight, stock, and material movers nearly 1,000,000 jobs; and
- School bus drivers - about 160,000 jobs.

So why wait any further to explore more fully what the truck transportation and warehousing industry might have to offer you!

Transportation career and job opportunities with trucking companies or warehouse businesses can be obtained by directly contacting these local businesses in your area, or by contacting a local Wisconsin Job Center or <http://www.CareerVoyages.org>

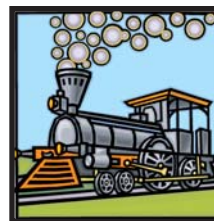
Sources:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Careervoyages.org](http://www.CareerVoyages.org), United States Department of Labor, National Center for Construction Education and Research, American Trucking Association

Website Highlight

<http://www.aar.org/abouttheindustry/rrjobs.asp>

Interested in a job working on the railroad? Check out this website for more information on careers. Railroad employees earn an annual average salary of \$61,895.



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